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ACTION SS-25INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9075~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 1177~~SECRET~~E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL POINT RAISED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1165

1. IN HASTE OF GETTING OUT REFTEL, WE INADVERTENTLY LEFT OUT ONE IMPORTANT POINT RAISED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI. DURING DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE I NOTED THAT MOST OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY THE NUMBER OF EXTREMISTS WHO ARE REPORTED AS BEING KILLED IN "AMBUSHES" AND WHILE "TRYING TO ESCAPE." RUMORS ROUND TOWN HAVE IT THAT MANY OF THESE ARE PRISONERS WHO ARE BEING KILLED IN COLD BLOOD BY SECURITY FORCES AND THEIR DEATHS THEN BEING DISGUISED AS A RESULT OF CONFRONTATIONS WITH TERRORISTS. I SAID THAT WHETHER OR NOT RUMORS WERE TRUE, FACT IS THAT MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY ARE AND THAT GOA IMAGE IS BEING SERIOUSLY DAMAGED AS A RESULT. IT SEEMED TO ME IN THE GOA'S INTEREST TO TAKE THE APPROPRIATE MEASURES.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI SAID HE COULD NOT DENY THERE MAY HAVE BEEN "MISTAKES" AND "EXCESS OF ENERGY" ON THE PART OF SOME IN THE SECURITY FORCES BUT THAT MANY OF THE ACCUSATIONS ARE EITHER EXAGGERATIONS OR SIMPLY NOT TRUE. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, GIVE ANY INDICATION THAT GOA WAS TAKING MEASURES

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TO STOP THIS PRACTICE. IN FACT, HE REPEATED FORMULATION THAT GOA IS TAKING MEASURES WHICH IT BELIEVES NECESSARY IN ITS WAR AGAINST THE TERRORISTS.
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